

## Book Reviews

**INFORMED CONSENT: A STUDY OF DECISIONMAKING IN PSYCHIATRY.** By CW Lidz, A Meisel, E Zerubavel, M Carter, RM Sestak, and LH Roth. New York: Guilford, 1984. xv + 365 pp. \$30.00.

Reviewed by Gary B. Melton, PhD

The Pittsburgh group of Lidz *et al.* has been among the most prodigious contributors to research on psycholegal issues in mental health, especially informed consent. *Informed Consent* is a significant addition to the group's work. Dedicated to Jay Katz, the book is a fitting complement to Katz's recent volume entitled *The Silent World of Doctor and Patient*.

Through detailed ethnographic observations of consent procedures in an admission service, a research ward, and an outpatient clinic, Lidz *et al.* found informed consent to be virtually absent. As such, *Informed Consent* is a damning exposé of both the legal and the mental health systems. On the one hand, the law has provided incentives only for ritualistic reading of rights and signing of forms. Structures have not been developed for facilitating patients' autonomous involvement as partners in treatment. On the other hand, the health professionals studied showed little inclination to treat their patients in such a manner. Alternative treatments and risks were seldom explored, and consent

often was sought pro forma *after* decisions had been made. When a serious effort was made to involve patients, it was intended to increase their compliance with treatment, not to support their autonomy.

*Informed Consent* is an important book that I have already cited frequently. Nonetheless, I did find it a bit disappointing. The studies could have been presented in a shorter, monograph-length book without substantial loss of information. I had hoped that a book-length treatment of the issues would have provided an integration of the Pittsburgh group's studies on informed consent. However, the first chapters do provide a good summary of the law and psychology of informed consent.

**DISABLED PERSONS AND THE LAW: STATE LEGISLATIVE ISSUES.** By BD Sales, DM Powell, and R Duizend. New York: Plenum Press, 1982. xvii + 879 pp. \$75.00.

Reviewed by William H. Reid, MD,  
Book Review Editor

This book is a product of The Developmental Disabilities State Legislative Project of the American Bar Association's Commission on the Mentally Disabled, a collection of proposed laws and commentary. The book covers a wide variety of topics, including marriage, sterilization, voting rights, environmen-

tal barriers, zoning for community homes and criminal justice. There are model statutes for most issues, as well as charts that survey the laws (as of 1980, when the research was finished) in all the states and territories for each subject. The guiding principles of the proposed statutes are that developmentally disabled individuals should have rights equal with those of other citizens; that, as much as possible, they should have normal ways of life and environment; and that any restrictions required by their disability be the least restrictive necessary.

Because of its length (over 800 oversized pages) and format, this book is not recommended as a primer on the rights of developmentally disabled citizens. It is, however, useful as a thoroughly researched guide to the places in which the law currently fails to adequately protect the rights of developmentally disabled people and to what adequate statutory protection should be.

**THE INSANITY DEFENSE AND THE TRIAL OF JOHN W. HINCKLEY, JR.** By L Caplan. Boston: David R. Godine, 1984. 160 pp. \$13.95.

Reviewed by Glenn H. Miller, MD

Lincoln Caplan, a lawyer, has dispassionately described Hinckley's personal history, the trial itself, and the aftermath in an expanded version of pieces ap-

pearing originally in the *New Yorker*. A number of fascinating items are recorded, ranging from the poetry of the defendant to the proposed changes in the law. It was a surprise to find this informed book: I had thought the press made only prejudicial remarks about psychiatry and the insanity defense.

One cannot easily determine the subtleties of Hinckley's mental status from this slim book. Even less can one understand the experts' jump from the defendant's psychological makeup to his ability to appreciate the wrongfulness of his act. Caplan does not delve into the recondite issues of the insanity defense.

The conclusions are reasonable, if not unforseen. Caplan rightly believes that limiting the insanity defense will not solve the problem of violent crime or provide additional security to society. Rather, when the law "gives up safeguards without any assurance of improvement in public safety, the government takes a step toward tyranny."

**SOVIET PSYCHIATRIC ABUSE: THE SHADOW OVER WORLD PSYCHIATRY.** By S Bloch and P Reddaway. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1985. 288 pp. \$25.00.

Reviewed by Robert L. Sadoff, MD

This compact book, written by two well-known authors on Soviet psychiatry, presents a history of confrontation be-

## Book Reviews

tween Western and Russian psychiatry. The first chapter discusses the political abuse in this area and its treatment in the Soviet Union. Perhaps that is the most interesting of the chapters because it has substance rather than the process detailed in the several other chapters that take the reader through the political procedures of the world psychiatric association and its confrontation with Soviet psychiatry, beginning in Hawaii and traveling through to Vienna and beyond.

The book is primarily a documentation of the events that have occurred in world psychiatry relating to Soviet abuse of psychiatrists for political purposes. It is an important book, alerting world psychiatry to the methods by which psychiatry may be subverted for political uses. Specific examples of psychiatric abuse are noted in the appendix with a letter from the Honorary Golden AAPL Award Winner, Professor Koryagin. Perhaps his final words reflect the tenor of this book: "We must brand, brand with shame, those who out of self interest or antihumanitarian motives trample on the ideals of justice and on the doctors' sacred oath."

This book is a follow-up to the previous book by the same authors, *Russia's Political Hospitals*, which also documents the abuse of psychiatry in the Soviet Union. In the current book, *Soviet Psychiatric Abuse*, the authors point to the response by organized world psychiatry to such abuse. It is important documentation that should be read by concerned psychiatrists in order to prevent similar political abuse in other parts of the world.

**SILENT SCREAMS AND HIDDEN CRIES: AN INTERPRETATION OF ARTWORK BY CHILDREN FROM VIOLENT HOMES.** By A Wohl and B Kaufman. New York: Brunner/Mazel, 1985. xvii + 173 pp. \$25.00.

Reviewed by Elissa P. Benedek, MD

Bobbie Kaufman, a registered art therapist, and Agnes Mohl, a certified social worker, have edited a brief volume consisting of 50 drawings by 18 elementary school children. These children live with their mothers in a "safe house" for abused women; they have shared their drawings with the authors. The volume contains 50 drawings of human figures, families, houses, and trees. In these projective materials the children reveal themselves as terrified, frightened, confused, and insecure, with low self-esteem and a poorly defined sense of identity.

Interpreting children's artwork is a specialized skill requiring training and experience. The artwork, however, is an explicit and pitiful reflection of the silent screams and hidden cries of these children, who have either witnessed or been subjected to violence and abuse. The impact is powerful. The drawings are supplemented by brief histories of the children and an explanation of each drawing by art therapist Bobbie Kaufman.

I highly recommend this book to child psychiatrists. It supplements the basic art training one receives during fellowship. It would be a valuable addition to the libraries of those professionals who

work with violent families. It provides a graphic illustration of how important children's artwork is in understanding their cries for help and in coming to their assistance.

**EROTIC PREFERENCE, GENDER IDENTITY AND AGGRESSION IN MEN: NEW RESEARCH STUDIES.** Edited by R Langevin. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 1985. 375 pp. \$39.95.

Reviewed by William H. Reid, MD,  
Book Review Editor

This book reports 14 studies done in or near Toronto. Most of the researchers are affiliated with the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry, which has a large forensic evaluation and treatment system. The editor is involved in almost all the studies. Each has been carefully carried out, with extensive literature reviews and clear statistical analysis.

The chapters are not particularly related to each other; rather, the book is a collection of studies done in the fields of "Sexual Aggression," "Alcohol and the Brain," "Pedophilia and Incest," and "Homosexuality, Transvestism, and Transsexualism." Appendices contain information about the psychometric instruments used. The book has been made about as readable as is possible, given the contributors' wish to present their material in a scholarly fashion. Whether or not one agrees with the results of any individual study described,

the editor has given the reader one volume with a great deal of thought-provoking data to add to his or her knowledge base.

**GERIATRICS AND THE LAW: PATIENT RIGHTS AND PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.** By MB Kapp and A Bigot. New York: Springer Publishing, 1985. 249 pp. \$27.95.

Reviewed by William H. Reid, MD,  
Book Review Editor

This book is written by an attorney with a MPH as well as a PhD in "Psychosocial Gerontology." It does not refer exclusively to psychiatric patients; however, many of the issues raised are psychiatric ones. Some parts of the book, particularly in the beginning, will be too simple for AAPL members: "... this volume is purposely broad rather than deep" (p. xiii).

Nevertheless, the authors do a good job of introducing the reader to legal issues, some of which he will certainly encounter, and all of which he should understand. The chapter topics include abuse and domestic violence, commitment and guardianship, legal issues in nursing homes, medicolegal issues at the end of life, research with older subjects, legal services to the aged, disability determination, and financing health care of the elderly. The book is extremely well referenced and includes a bibliography and lists of sources for further information.

## Book Reviews

CRITICAL ISSUES IN AMERICAN PSYCHIATRY AND THE LAW, Vols. 1 (1982) and 2 (1985). Edited by R Rosner. Springfield, IL: Charles C Thomas.

Reviewed by J. Richard Ciccone, MD

The editor of these two volumes, Richard Rosner, has achieved his goal of providing material that will further the education of all psychiatrists who are interested in psychiatry and the law. Some of the chapters are based on papers originally presented at Tri-State AAPL meetings; others were prepared especially for the book. In addition to the predictable diversity of style that accompanies any text with a number of authors, the chapters also have a difference in voice, as some of the material was prepared for oral presentation and some for the written page. Although the two books are companion pieces with the unifying theme of topics captured in their titles, they may be read independently.

The first volume, published in 1982, has four major sections: "Legal Activism" (perspectives on forensic psychiatry, the right to treatment, the right to refuse treatment, assessing dangerousness, and the independent legal representation of children); "The Expert Witness" (the historical development of and current concerns with psychiatric expert witness role); "Family Law, Domestic Relations and Forensic Psychiatry" (psychiatry in family law); and "Psychiatric Treatment and the Law" (involuntary hospitalization, confidentiality, informed consent, and a proposal for post-

insanity plea procedures). Particularly illuminating chapters were Rosner's "A Conceptual Model for Forensic Psychiatry," Henry Weinstein's paper on the right to refuse treatment, Ralph Slovenko's exploration of "Psychological Testing as a Basis for Expert Testimony," Wynn Perr's thoughts on confidentiality, and Jonas Robitscher's chapter on "ECT and Invasive Therapies."

The second volume is composed of seven sections: "Fundamental Considerations" (legal regulation and ethical concerns of forensic psychiatry); "Violence and Dangerousness" (an historical perspective and a discussion of predicting dangerousness); "Aspects of Psychiatry and the Civil Law" (an overview, will contests, and malpractice); "Adolescent Psychiatry and the Law"; "Scientific Truth Detection" (sodium amytal, the polygraph, and hypnosis); and "Special Topics in Forensic Psychiatry" (the malingering defendant, premenstrual syndrome, training in forensic psychiatry, and the Joint Committee Standards for Fellowship Programs in Forensic Psychiatry). Of special note are Jaques Quen's chapter on "Violence, Psychiatry and the Law: An Historical Perspective," Jonas Rappeport's discussion of psychiatry and civil law, Bob Sadoff's chapter on the plaintiff's case in psychiatric malpractice, Martin Orne's discussion of the use and misuse of hypnosis in court, and Dan Schwartz' chapter on "The Problem of the Malingering Defendant."

In the rapidly developing field of forensic psychiatry, these two books contain essays that are remarkably up to date, theoretically challenging, and practically useful. I recommend them to any-

one interested in the field of psychiatry and the law.

**THE CRIME VICTIM'S BOOK**, Vol. XXIII. Edited by M Bard and D Sangrey. New York: Brunner/Mazel, 1985. 244 pp. Price not available.

Reviewed by Eric L. Sheers

**BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BIOETHICS**, Vol. XI. Edited by L Walters and TJ Kahn. Washington, DC: Kennedy Institute of Ethics, Georgetown University, 1985. 367 pages + index. Price not available.

Reviewed by William H. Reid, MD,  
Book Review Editor

This is a very comprehensive bibliography which has culled around 300 journals and other sources for its eleventh edition. Entries are by subject, cross-indexed by author and title. Each entry has flagged key words; many have brief abstracts. It is an excellent reference tool; I hope AAPL members will recommend it to their local and medical school libraries.

You are not alone. Regardless of where victims and significant others are in the recovery process, this book will help. Bard and Sangrey have not only provided victims with the much needed "reflection of feeling" but also the articulation and validation of injury that is paramount to victims as they struggle to overcome those contradictory emotions that adversely affect them as they struggle to rebuild their lives.

This is an excellent handbook for the direct service provider. It is a useful tool for advocates who must arm themselves with practical information for helping victims, basic legal knowledge for asserting their rights, and logical and philosophical arguments for including victims in the judicial process.